

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 /028 W

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R 201531Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5038

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 0273

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, NL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN LEGION FREEDOM BELL CEREMONY

REF: STATE 003763

STATE FOR EUR/WE; MARSHALL NOBLE (PA)

USIA FOR IMV, IWE

1. FREEDOM BELL WAS CAST ON JANUARY 17 AT FOUNDRY PETIT EN FRITSEN. POURING CEREMONEY BEGAN AT 1420 LOCAL TIME, LASTED TEN MINUTES, AND WAS WITNESSED BY PRINCESS BEATRIX, PRINCE CLAUS, AMB AND MRS. GOULD AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN LEGION, AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN FOUNDATION, EMBASSY I.O. AND VARIOUS RELATIVES OF FRITSEN FAMILY. AMBASSADOR SPOKE BRIEFLY ON HISTORY OF ORIGINAL LIBERTY BELL AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS REPLICA.

2. COLORFUL EVENT (LEAPING FLAMES, HEAVY SMOKE AND CHANTING OF LORD'S PRAYER PER OLD CUSTOM BY CASTING SUPERVISOR) GOT GOOD MEDIA COVERAGE IN NETHERLANDS INCLUDING BRIEF ITEM ON NATIONAL TELEVISION. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY ENCOURAGED THEM TO ATTEND, NEITHER VOA STRINGER, AP NOR UPI SHOWED UP. HOWEVER, DUTCH NEWS SERVICE PHOTOG THERE SAID AP HAD REQUESTED PIX. I.O. TELEPHONED DETAILS OF CEREMONEY TO UNCLASSIFIED

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UPI BUREAU CHIEF IN THE HAGUE, WHO SAID THEY WOULD RUN

STORY ON WIRE TO U.S. AMBASSADOR INTERVIEWED BY ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICE OF DUTCHWORLD BROADCASTING SERVICE.

3. PER USIA/IMV TELEPHONE REQUEST, WE HAVE ASKED NOS-TV FOR FOOTAGE FROM THEIR COVERAGE. THEY WILL CONSIDER REQUEST BUT HAVE NOT PROMISED ANYTHING.

4. WILL FORWARD COPIES OF LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE TO DEPT/P FOR MARSHALL NOBLE.

5. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED TO JON FOUST, PRESIDENT OF FREEDOM TRAIN FOUNDATION THAT IT WORTH CHECKING TO SEE IF SEALAND, INC. INTERESTED IN TRANSPORTING BELL TO U.S. AT NO CHARGE FOR PUBLICITY VALUE. FOUST NATURALLY PLEASED BY IDEA, AND WE NOT CHECKING WITH SEALAND. GOULD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA00273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750021-0632
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750135/aaaabfiy.tel
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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